Statement from Norway on expectations to SAON (email from Birgit Njaastad, 21st March 2017):

Norway’s expectation to SAON is that SAON in a structured and operational manner will support the development of observation series and the access to free, open and high quality data from a network of selected observing systems that have been identified as providing key information in assessing and understanding the ongoing changes in the Arctic on an overarching level. The effort should build on the foundations laid down during the International Polar Year and, in accordance with the SAON mission, answer to societal needs and contribute to pan-Arctic and global value-added services. We would expect SAON to facilitate the definition of key observing needs (e.g. in dialogue with the Arctic Council subsidiary bodies), to identify and support ongoing observing activities that fill such needs, to act as a catalyst for the establishment of new observing activities where the identified needs are not yet covered by existing systems, and to promote activities to share and disseminate the observation data in a timely, structured and user friendly manner.